

Legislature honors fallen heroes

By Hawaii State House of Representatives
News Release

The Hawaii State Senate and House of Representatives assembled in a two separate special joint sessions, Monday and Tuesday, to recognize members of the Pacific Army Reserve and military service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Hawaii State House of Representatives held a floor presentation and reception, Monday, to thank the Army Reserve Soldiers and families and employers of the Pacific Army Reserve in Hawaii who have helped build 100 years of success for the Army Reserve.

Tuesday, the legislature presented Hawaii Medals of Honor to family members on behalf of their fallen service members.

“We are truly grateful for the sacrifices that these families have made,” said Representative K. Mark Takai. “This medal is just a small token of our utmost appreciation of those service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice.”

In 2005, the Legislature passed House Bill 8, which created the Hawaii Medal of Honor. This special medal is awarded on behalf of the people of the state of Hawaii to an individual who was killed in action while serving our country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Recipients of the medal include members of the armed forces, reserves, and the Hawaii National Guard, who were residents of the state of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii, or were stationed in Hawaii by order of the Department of Defense.

“In the past five years, the war against terrorism has changed our world and our lives in a profound way,” Takai said. “Ultimately, it’s not about money, and it’s not even about winning. It’s all about the families and their loved ones and what these brave men and women sacrificed to our country.”

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